

How American Newspaper Reporters Outwitted Spies of Germany, Watched Diplomats and Exposed the Plots

Providence Journal's Staff "Shows Up" Bernstorff, Dumba and others; Bares Munition Intrigues; Supposedly Astute Teuton Agents Completely Fooled

How American newspaper reporters outwitted German diplomats, secret agents and spies in the United States, taking advantage of the German blundering, was revealed a few days ago by John R. Rathom, editor of the Providence Journal, Rhode Island, in an address before the Canadian Press Association at Toronto, Canada. Shortly after the war broke out it was widely known in the newspaper field that the Providence Journal was obtaining some of the most remarkable news "leaks" secured anywhere in the United States. Soon it began a series of revelations about German and Austrian activities in the United States which were country-wide sensations.

The uncovering of the German plots brought the Journal into much prominence, and it soon became evident that the administration officials at Washington knew that the Journal had the correct information.

How the Providence paper did it; how the editors and reporters outwitted the German secret service and secured some of its most valuable information, was told for the first time by Rathom. The story included a recital of munition plots; of a member of the Journal staff actually serving as secretary to the German ambassador. Also, it was told how a young woman stenographer in the employ of the Journal won a confidential position in the Austrian consulate in New York and how Capt. von Papen was trapped.

It was shown that the activities of Dr. Dumba, Ambassador Bernstorff and other high officials were known long before they were publicly exposed, and that the newspaper reporters completely deceived the supposedly astute Germans.

The Toronto Star prints the salient features of Mr. Rathom's revelations, as given herewith, and remarks that the work of the Providence Journal in uncovering Hun conspiracies in the United States "had much to do with bringing the republic into the war."

"Some Inside History"
The address was entitled, "Some Inside History," and lifted the veil from the mystery as to how the Providence Journal was able to reveal Hun conspiracies in the United States.

The Journal happened upon its course of exposure through having had for ten years before the war what other papers described as a "bug" on wireless telegraphy. The papers had maintained two powerful wireless plants at Point Judith and at Block Island. When war broke out they had decided to "listen in" on the messages crossing the Atlan-

tic. For five months they kept record of these messages, and then they set out to find the codes and make revelations. Of the material they secured they used only a fractional part.

One of his women stenographers was sent and secured an appointment in the Austrian Consulate in New York. Other of his workers were constantly engaged in shadowing Captain Boy-Ed, Capt. von Papen, former Austrian Ambassador Dumba, the German Ambassador Bernstorff, and other German and Austrian officials. The two wireless plants unceasingly listened in two shifts of operators at work day and night, on Sayville and Nantucket, the two wireless stations which were being used mostly by the Germans to keep in touch with Berlin, from where they received instructions for every detail of their plotting policy.

For the United States Government the Brooklyn Navy Yard had had instructions to keep a close watch on the Sayville and Nantucket stations, but nothing suspicious was ever reported until Mr. Rathom took some of the messages which he had received from his operators to the State Department. It was then learned that the Navy Yard operators had been in the pay of German agents in America, and had been told not to hear too much.

Ingenious Codes

The codes used by the Germans were of the most ingenious nature. Many of them pretended to be stock quotations, and some were even done up as funeral directions. In some cases, however, the codes showed evidence of the green blubber, referred to by the speaker, as on one occasion when Mr. Rathom was able to go to President Wilson and show him copies of eight separate messages sent by the wireless plant within nine days, all relating that "little Emily" had died of such and such an illness, in a certain part of a room, had been buried in a certain cemetery beside such and such a previously deceased relative. In every one of these messages the illness, the part of the room, the name of the relative, the cemetery, and so on, varied, and a clear code was detected in each of the messages.

Green Blubber in Brain

The first revelation which Mr. Rathom told illustrated the German capacity for blundering. It was the story of Werner Horne—the man who was responsible for the attempt to blow up the Vaneboro bridge. Horne had been detected as a German spy by one of the Journal reporters in New York. In an effort to disguise himself, Horne allowed his beard to grow for three days, put on an old suit which he purchased for three dollars (even this detail was reported) and packed his personal effects in an old carpet bag. Having carried out these elaborate precautions he took passage for the point where the "job" was to be done on one of the finest and most luxurious trains in the United States. As is well known now, he was caught. When asked later by Mr. Rathom why he had been foolish enough to travel first class in such shabby dress, Horne replied that he was a German officer and a gentleman, and always travelled in the best style.

The Passport Fraud

Another German scheme in which the Journal reporters outwitted the Teutons occurred soon after in New York also. A fraudulent passport bureau, operated by German officials, was discovered doing a land office business in an office building on Broadway. The Journal—faking as a public accountant on the one side and a manufacturers' agent on the other—sandwiched the passport forgers between them. Every word that passed in this office was recorded by means of the instruments used for that purpose, and reported to the Providence Journal. When sufficient evidence was gathered the United States Secret Service was notified, and the three forgers were taken away. As soon as they had been removed, three of the Journal's employees were allowed to take charge of the office to receive the patrons. It was not long after that Von Papen and the German military attaché at Tokyo came in with a list of names of men for whom he desired passports. The name at the top of the list was that of Werner Horne.

Journal Man as Bernstorff's Secretary
"A friend of mine," said Mr. Rathom, "thinking himself very friendly, but in a thing which I objected to, went to Paris and while there bought a lot of war relics. Among them was one of the first iron crosses that had been given by the German Em-

peror to a major of a German regiment, who died on the field and whose cross had been taken from him and sent to Paris. It was sold to my friend, with statements as to whom it had belonged, and my friend sent it to me. I sent it to Bernstorff with a letter, saying that that mark of honorable distinction of a man who had done his duty for his country belongs to his family; I gave the name of the man and the name of the family, and begged him to take care of the cross so that it could be sent back after the war or at some time to the man's people.

"The ambassador tore the note to pieces, threw the name of the man I sent, and threw the cross on the floor, saying that, after having been defiled by the hands of American dogs that cross was of no use to anybody in Germany. I knew my man was telling the truth, because the man I had in there reported the incident to me exactly the way he did. Incidentally I might say that individual to whom I refer was in the German embassy seventeen months as one of the ambassador's secretaries, and the ambassador had no knowledge that he was not what he pretended to be until the Frederick VIII left New York for Halifax. He said to my man: 'You had better get aboard or you will lose your boat,' and he replied: 'I am safer on this side.' Mr. Bernstorff had no idea of that man's identity or who he was serving until he left New York. And he wrote a letter from Halifax to a friend in New York which he attempted to get sent back, but which was intercepted, telling some of his friends what he thought of this individual. When Huerta Met Boy-Ed

"The famous Huerta case, the attempt of the German government to embroil us with Mexico, an attempt that the recent Zimmerman letter proved beyond any doubt to be true, was already proved by us a long time before. Early in the war my man in the embassy—I say my man; you must pardon me for that; I mean our man, because I am not the Providence Journal—was ordered by Capt. Boy-Ed to go to New York and get a suite of six quiet rooms in a hotel where Boy-Ed and his people could meet Huerta. Naturally enough, my man, being loyal, could do nothing else than select the rooms we selected for him, so he went to the Manhattan Hotel and got a suite of rooms which were rigged up with the apparatus I spoke of, and to make assurance doubly sure, I got another man to act as chauffeur on the auto that brought Huerta. They had their conference, and at the conclusion of that conference every word that was uttered—uttered through an interpreter, because Boy-Ed did not speak Spanish—was sent down to the Department of State the next morning. They had the entire facts before them, and knew everything, and for several months later, when Boy-Ed and Bernstorff were troth-ing at the mouth and uttering denials, the State Department had the very words that were uttered.

Romance Among the Spies

"Another incident," he continued, "that is of great interest came when one of our most valued and keenest stenographers in our own office, a girl that came to us seven years ago from about twenty miles outside of Providence, was given a position in the office of the Austrian Consul-General in New York City. She had never been in New York before, but she was head of a number of people in competition, and the man choosing the stenographer they wanted, a capable girl able to do his work and to keep her mouth shut, had been informed that she was the party to choose—by other friends of ours. One day about five or six weeks after she got there she informed us that a great packing case was being filled up with propaganda documents and with bills of expense in connection with explosions in munition plants and other vital and valuable things, and was to be shipped off the following week right straight to England on a Swedish ship and from there to Germany.

"The only thing we could possibly do was to identify the package. One day when they were about to close the package up this girl, under instructions—and I may say incidentally she is now back at work getting her \$16 a week—sat on this box eating her lunch. Nearly everybody else had gone, but von Papen, rather debonaire, and fond of ladies, wandered in and sat on the packing box and asked if he could share her lunch with her. She said certainly, and while they were sharing the sandwiches he made some sentimental advances and she in rather a dreamy way took out a large red pencil and drew two big red marks on this packing case. It was Capt. von Papen himself who put the arrow through them. And, ladies and gentlemen, when the ship Austria II reached Falmouth they picked that package out of the hold from about 150 others and identified it by the two big red hearts. And yet they say there are no brilliant people but the Germans. Dr. Albert's Portfolio

Another incident, the loss of a portfolio belonging to Dr. Heinrich Albert, an Austrian official, which contained papers relating to Ambassador Dumba's efforts to incite labor troubles in the United States, created quite a stir among the diplomats. Mr. Rathom told of how a Journal reporter got the papers as the result of which Dumba was sent back to Austria by the President.

"One of the Journal reporters had been shadowing Dr. Albert in New York, but for months nothing seemed wrong. One day he went into a leather-goods store, where he ordered a portfolio and gave the salesman instructions to put his initials on it. The reporter, as soon as Albert had gone out, walked up to the salesman

same kind, but with no initials, saying he would rather first see how the other gentleman's initials looked. When he came back and saw the initials he said he didn't like them and departed to go to another shop and have the same initials put on his portfolio. His work was becoming less tiresome and less fruitless than it had been. A day or so later Albert, carrying his new portfolio, was followed from the front of his apartments by the Journal man. Albert boarded an elevated train. He placed his bag containing papers on the seat beside him. Suddenly he was stirred by a fight in the front of the car. As he stood up to see what the trouble was, as did nearly everybody else in the car, the portfolios were changed. This happened on a Saturday morning. Albert, in a statement later, said that he discovered the trick the same day, but we know for a fact that he did not discover the difference until Monday morning. Needless to say the men who were fighting on the street car were also in the employ of the Journal."

The Casement Plot

It was through the Journal, Mr. Rathom said, that a great quantity of important papers were secured from Wolf von Engel. These papers revealed the Casement plot for the Irish uprising. When the papers were taken, Mr. Rathom said, in illustrating his point that there is a certain amount of stupidity in all German diplomats, von Bernstorff made application to the State Department to have them returned. He was told that any paper he could identify would be returned to him, and then realized how he had committed himself in asking that the papers be returned.

Three days before Bernstorff was ordered to return to Germany, Mr. Rathom declared, he demanded that the American government suppress the Providence Journal.

Waited Long to Convince Public

"Every statement that we have made in regard to German plots in the United States has been proven to be positively true," declared Mr. Rathom. "For the first nine or ten months no one believed what we were saying. We were shouting against the wind. The dismissal of Dr. Dumba was the first result of our months of effort. We have not printed one-fiftieth of what we secured, but we were very glad, when events turned, to turn the key on the safe in which it is deposited and forget the balance, because the work we tried to do has been accomplished."

—Woman—I want a divorce. Lawyer—And how much alimony? Woman—One hundred per. I wouldn't let him go for less.—Town Topics.

ACCIDENT BOARD IS ADVISED TO RETAIN ACTIVITY

That the industrial accident board has the right to maintain its existence by simple current expense, in spite of the advice of the city attorney's office that it suspend operations pending a supreme court decision on Circuit Judge Ashford's ruling that the workman's compensation act is unconstitutional, is the summary of a communication sent to the board by Governor Pinkham last week.

Upon receipt of the advice from the city attorney's office, the board wrote a letter to the governor inquiring whether the territorial auditor would continue to honor the vouchers signed by the chairman of the board. Governor Pinkham replied as follows:

"Your communication of July 5 at hand. I infer the course advised by the city and county attorney is correct except your board reserves to itself the right to expedite as it may the presentation and final opinion of the supreme court.

"The tender of the good offices of the board would seem proper and commendable.

"The acting attorney-general, the auditor concurring, decides the board has a right to maintain its existence by simple current expense, hence the auditor will continue to honor the legitimate vouchers covering such expenses, signed as usual by the chairman of the board."

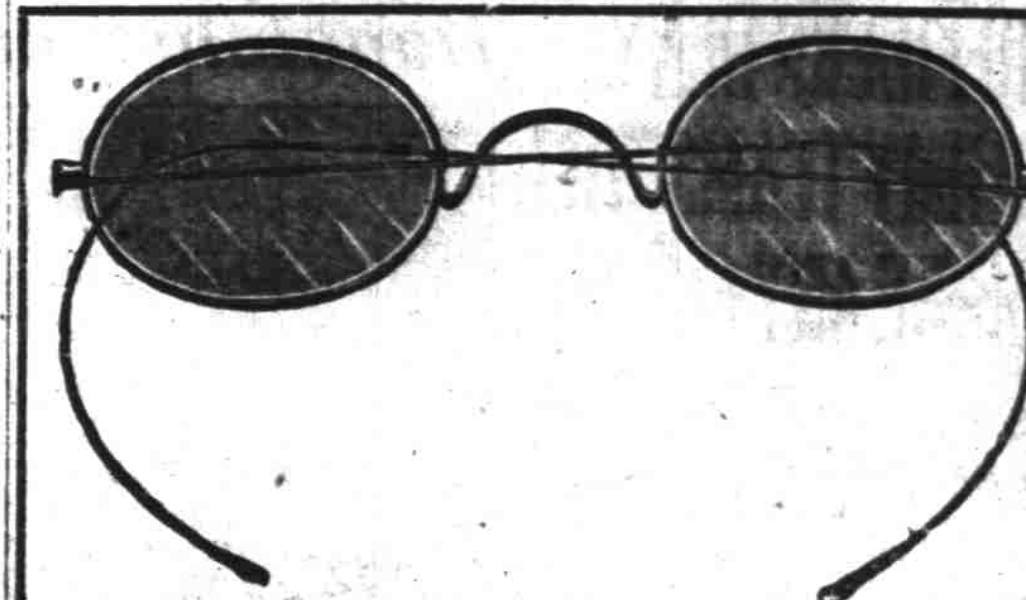
In part, the letter of the board to the governor was as follows: "Acting under advice the board has notified the insurance carriers of its inability to sit as a board and render official decisions on questions submitted, but it has also notified them that the office of the board will be open during the regular hours to receive reports of accidents as usual, if the employers and the insurance carriers care to avail themselves of the privilege of filing the reports with this board.

"As there seems to be some doubt among the members of the board as to how the current expense of carrying on the routine work of the board is to be borne, since the decision of Judge Ashford in regard to our workman's compensation law, we would like to know if the auditor of the territory will continue to honor the vouchers signed by the chairman of the board, and if not, we would like to know what means can be devised to take care of the expenses involved by the routine work of this board."



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